GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2959
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2017
Import of Scrap
Chowdhary Shri Pankaj

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the policy for importing scrap from abroad;
(b) the names of the countries from where the junk scrap is being imported into the country;
(c) whether the Government has taken cognizance of import of hazardous matrials/ items including discarded arms and ammunition along with the scrap and if so, the details thereof; and
(d) whether the Government proposes to put a ban on the imports of such hazardous scrap brought from abroad and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) : Import of metal wastes and scrap is regulated under Hazardous and Other Waste (Management & Trans-boundary Movement) Rules, 2016. As per Rule 12(1) of the Hazardous and Other Waste Rules, 2016, import of hazardous and other wastes from any country to India is not permitted for disposal. Also as per Rule 12 (2) of the said Rules, import of hazardous and other waste which includes scrap is permitted only for recycling, recovery, reuse and utilisation including co-processing.

As per the Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20), import of any form of metallic waste, scrap of any form is subject to the condition that it will not contain hazardous, toxic waste, radioactive contaminated waste/scrap containing radioactive material, any types of arms, ammunition, mines, shells, live or used cartridge or any other explosive material in any form either used or otherwise.

(b): India is importing metal scrap from almost all countries. United Arab Emirates, USA, UK, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Australia, Netherland, Singapore, Malaysia and Germany are the top ten countries, in terms of value wise import of metal scrap.

(c) & (d): Import of metallic waste and scraps (both shredded & unshredded) under 15 tariff lines (including those of iron, steel, copper, brass, nickel, aluminium, zinc, tin and magnesium) is 'free' subject to Pre-Shipment Inspection Certificates (PSIC) to the effect that the consignment does not have radiation level beyond the permissible limit and contract with the exporter that the consignment does not contain any arms, ammunition, mines, shells, cartridges, radioactive contaminated, or any other explosive material in any form used or otherwise. Further, while shredded scraps are allowed through all the ports in India, import of unshredded scraps is subject to port restriction, i.e., allowed only through 14 sea ports. All these ports are in the process of upgrading facilities like Radiation Portal Monitors and Container Scanners for comprehensive inspection on metal scraps.

Metal scraps are imported only for the purpose of recovery and recycling which enables our manufactures much cheaper sources of raw materials. From the existing Rules and Guidelines as in (a) above, discarded arms and ammunitions are already under ban. Further, Schedule VI of the Hazardous and Other Waste (Management & Trans-boundary Movement) Rules, 2016 lists metal and metal bearing wastes; wastes containing organic and inorganic constituents, with metals and organic and/or inorganic materials which are prohibited for import. These inter alia include solid plastic waste and waste pneumatic tyres for direct reuse.
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